

The Middletown Transcript.

VOL. XXX.—NO 35

MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1897.

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MIDDLETOWN, DEL., Apr. 1896.

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C. H. MANLY.

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THE

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Wilmington, Delaware

The Cavern Of Flies

AY 21, Vera Cruz, Mexico—At Feoeb, State of Yucatan, and at other places in that State, the sun has been obscured for several days by clouds of flies, which came from the interior of the country.—The New York Sun.

Is this the proof of the story told by the late General Jo O. Shelby, the Confederate who never surrendered, but who, nevertheless, died United States Marshal for the Western District of Missouri? Has the Cavern of Flies broken loose?

It was near this same Feoeb, according to the General's story, that Walter Andrews Balister, formerly living near Kansas City, Mo., won a fortune by entering the famous Cavern of Flies.

The Cavern of Flies is one of the most wonderful and, at the same time, one of the most hideous places in the world.

Balister's adventure, in daring and inexplicable terror, is not exceeded by the most extravagant flights of fiction. The memory of his experience undoubtedly was upon Balister's mind, for he packed up six years ago and left his home saying:

"I am going to Greenland, where it is too cold for flies."

It is not known in what year he went to Yucatan. By a strange whim of fortune this tall, thin youth, from the district of Missouri, where the James boys had their haunts, found himself shipping from New Orleans as one of a party to explore the ancient ruins of Yucatan.

When he returned to Jackson County in 1880 his old friends did not know him. His face and hands were covered with countless tiny blue spots, as if he had been tattooed. He had plenty of money, although he went from the Missouri hills with nothing except the six-shooter in his hip pocket.

He built a fine house. Each window of the house was provided with firm wire netting. A summer house in the grounds was built, enclosed entirely with netting. When asked why he used all this, Balister replied, "I keep out flies!"

Soon his black servants told a strange story. Their master's chief requirement was that they should let no flies into the house. If he heard one buzzing, every person in the house was ordered to kill that fly, to do nothing until the fly was killed.

One day Balister found a black boy asleep with a fly perched on his nose. He struck the boy a blow that all but killed him!

It was too near the big up-to-date town of Kansas City for black boys to be struck down by their masters, hence Balister was arrested for assault with intent to kill.

He declared he aimed at the fly, not the boy. This excuse was considered a bit of grim humor.

It was this circumstance that led the strange man to tell to the late General J. O. Shelby the story of the "Cavern of Flies." General Shelby told the story several times in convivial moments.

Balister's father was one of my bravest soldiers," said General Shelby, "and rode to Mexico with me rather than surrender to the Yankees. I met young Balister, but never asked him what made his face blue. Gentlemen, the man was blue all over! When he was charged with trying to kill the boy, he said to me:

"General, it is no joke—I did aim at the fly!"

"Then he told me the story which, he said, had never passed his lips before. It was so painful for him to tell.

"It seems that somewhere in the interior of Yucatan, near Feoeb, two of the expedition, accompanied by Balister, found a lot of ruins covered by forest trees. An immense hill of lava attracted them. It was around the hill they found these ruins.

"Among the peculiar features of an ancient temple was an underground tunnel, which, by observation, they found to lead into the hill of lava rock.

"In their efforts to follow this tunnel the party was driven back by swarms of flies. The walls and ceiling of the passage were covered with a species of flies which puzzled the explorers. They had never seen any flies of that sort in the land of flies.

"Determined to solve the mystery of the underground passage, the party covered their faces and hands with cloths and pushed resolutely on through ever-increasing clouds of flies. As they went further the ancient air grew warmer and moist, and an intolerable odor assailed them. They were driven back.

"The next day they tried again, and were rewarded by signs of light. Encouraged by the light, they fought through the swarms of insects and entered what seemed the crater of an extinct volcano. The terrible smell was from masses of flies underneath. Warm fumes still arose from the rocks. High above them were the apertures through which came the daylight.

"It is a burial place!" exclaimed the explorers.

"Balister knew nothing of the delight of unearthing the traces of extinct nations, his business was to man-

age mules, but he was filled with wonder to behold rows upon rows of erect skeletons along the walls. The bones of the mysterious dead were covered with flies.

"The next discovery was that the arms and ankles of the skeletons were decorated with bracelets. Pendants hung from grisly necks upon empty ribs and diaphragms!

"It was Balister who cried, 'They are gold!'

"Almost blinded by the attacks of insects, the men began to wrest the treasure from the spectres of an unknown past.

"Balister knocked grinning skulls of queens and nobles from their shoulders and strung his arms with rich necklaces of virgin gold.

"Then arose a sound like the gibbering of ten thousand fiends.

"Frightened and half running for the month of the tunnel, the men realized that it was not the angry murmurings of the ghosts of a forgotten race, but the uprising of countless millions and billions of flies!

"The swarms blotted out the rifts of daylight. The torches were extinguished, and the men fell upon their faces to escape the attack.

"Then, joining hands, they sought to find the tunnel through which they had entered. The pests got under their clothes, under the cloths over their faces, and they were bitten 'in a thousand places.

"Balister said his companions screamed with agony!

"They groped along the sides of the cavern, but everywhere their frantic hands felt nothing but the bony legs of the dead.

"Balister, gentlemen, was not a fat, spectacled scientist. He was a strong, fearless young man of the stuff that never surrenders. Yet he said that he felt his mind melting like a snowball in an oven. He wanted to scream and gibber!

"But, observing Missouri instinct all this time—he clung to his boot!

"He does not know how long the three men struggled in that avalanche of insects that choked them, that bit them in the gullet even as they were swallowed.

"Balister lost hold of his companions. Their screams, he said, sounded muffled in the angry roar of the myriads of flies which were eating them alive!

"Almost ready to fall and have his bones picked, Balister, by Missouri instinct, drew his gun and began to shoot!

"Although shooting at flies was mere madness, Balister said that the act of shooting saved his sanity. It was so natural an act for a Missourian, gentlemen!

"I yelled," Balister said to me, "when I saw, by the flashes, the mouth of the tunnel!"

"Come on!" he shouted to his companions, shooting as he ran and stumbled through the tunnel. The flies pursued him every step.

"He plunged into the court of the ruined temple, threw down his booty, and there tore off his clothes and brushed from his flesh the flies that clung like leeches. He was black with them, black and red—for the blood ran in streams.

"Running to the camp he smeared himself with ointment.

"So engrossed was Balister with his own torments that he did not, for the time, think of his employers.

"Gentlemen, they never came out!"

"Balister assured me on his honor that he went back the whole length of the tunnel, in vain, thinking he might find them lying there unconscious.

"He told me he remained among the ruins several days. He couldn't sleep because, at night, he thought he heard screams in the tunnel.

"Once he screwed up his courage to go to the mouth of the passage and call when he heard the screams. He said he thought he heard mocking laughter in reply.

"Balister concluded that the Mexican authorities would laugh at his story, so he hid as a murderer and took his gold.

"Possessed with this idea, he hid the gold in the pack saddles of his mules and made his way to the coast without attempting to find the rest of the expedition, which searched vainly for the men who were eaten alive.

"If I am perfectly sane," he told me, "but I can't bear the sight of a fly."

—New York Journal.

There's no question about it. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best blood purifier. This is proven by its wonderful cures of blood diseases.

Delightful Summer Tours.

For the convenience of those who seek the most attractive way of spending a Summer holiday, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged two delightful tours to the North, under the personally conducted tourist system, July 27 and August 17. The points included in the itinerary and the country traversed abound in nature's beauties. No matter how much may be expected, one cannot be disappointed in visiting Glen, Niagara Falls, Thousand Islands, Quebec, Montreal, An Seale Chateau, Lake Champlain and George, Saratoga, or the Highlands of the Hudson.

Each tour will be in charge of one of the company's tourist agents, assisted by an experienced lady as chaperone, whose special charge will be unreserved ladies.

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Our Woman's Column

WOMEN ON SCHOOL BOARDS.

R. Mary D. Hussey, of New-Jersey, is deeply impressed with the idea of woman's importance on the School Board. She says, among other things:

In a republic the State has no more important duty than the education of its citizen sovereigns, and as women are the God-ordained instructors of youth they should have a large share in the management of our schools.

"All women should take an interest in them as patriotic citizens, if not as taxpayers, and mothers should take a treble interest in their welfare."

"How can we expect to see children grow up with respect for the institutions of their country, when they see the general indifference of parents to an institution with such far-reaching effects as our school system?"

"School officers and teachers should be watched, not only to see they do no wrong, but to encourage them when they do well. Many a good teacher has degenerated from the lack of this stimulation."

"When the children were chiefly taught at home it might have been well to tell mothers to stay at home and take care of their children." But now, when they all go out to school, the mother's care should surely follow them.

"If the mothers, with their fixed principles and settled character, cannot attend a 'political meeting' and come in contact with the rank and file of the people among whom they live, how much less can they trust their little children, to teachers selected by men elected by the politicians who so much fear them."

"Think of the influence a teacher may have on such little ones!

She has them under her authority five hours a day, five days in the week, for ten months a year, for nearly a dozen years! Should she not be the salt of the earth to be trusted? And when such a teacher is secured she should be honored.

There are men everywhere who are willing to sacrifice the schools to their political party, but it does not seem possible that women would ever so far forget their duty to the children.

In one great city men were elected to the School Board who could only make their mark as a signature, and in one little village the president of the Board wrote to the teacher, 'School will begin on Monday.'

Ought mothers to be satisfied with schools managed by such ignorant men?

Women often have more moral courage than men, especially when the welfare of children is at stake. This was shown in the case of a school principal who so neglected his duty that while he read the newspapers his pupils read novels! Many parents took their children from the school, as they learned little besides mischief. And yet at the annual school meeting not a father raised his voice in protest, but a trembling little woman who had never heard her voice in public before, was greeted by a storm of corroborative applause when she had the courage to tell about it. And the principal retired from the profession.

How many faithful teachers are unappreciated!

Wherever there are mothers and teachers there should be conference in regard to the culture of the most precious product of our land—the children. And let these women seek the power of the ballot to make their ideas effective.

CHILD-STEALING IN LONDON.

Child-stealing in London is still carried on. What the person who steals a child wants is not the child but his clothes, and, having got them, the child turns up again safe and sound, but maybe a bit frightened and very hungry as a rule. The kidnappers are generally women. A woman can get on with a child without attracting attention as a man would.

If a child is stolen to be kept, it is, in most cases, sent down into the country. In the first place it is not so easily discovered and reclaimed there, and, in the next, it can be more profitably employed. The making it an offense to expose children of tender years for the purpose of gain in the streets has done a lot to make them of less value to these people.

Before that poor folk used to hire out their babies to the beggars for sleep, or something like that, a day. Some of them do so now, but the business is not what it was. A baby would in that way almost clear the rent of its parents until it died. The hired-out baby rarely lived long.

WEAR MAKES RUGS VALUABLE.

The most costly rugs in the world come from Persia. The beautiful softness and peculiar sheen of these rugs are due to the constant treading of bare feet. The rugs are made of goats' hair and wool combined. All Oriental rugs are hand made, and each piece of wool inserted is tied twice. Years of labor are involved in making some of the largest of these floor coverings, but they never wear out.

When a rug is made it has to be subjected to years of footwear before it becomes at all valuable. Many of the Persian rugs now in use have been walked on more than a hundred years and are still as new as ever.

THIRTEEN IS A HOODOO.

Rents on the thirteenth floor of the American Tract Society's building were reduced a third on Saturday. It was forced by the superstition with which professional and business men regard the number thirteen. Two or three skyscrapers are in the same predicament. It is probable that thirteenth floors will soon become a big item of worry to the agents of the many towering office structures that are going up.

The thirteenth-floor problem is new and unexpected. For several months after the Tract Society's building had been opened, the renting agent, Mr. Read, had been mystified as to why his thirteenth floor remained vacant. Business men, lawyers, all kinds of professional men, were anxious to take offices one very floor above the thirteenth. Those above it were full like those below it, but up to a few weeks ago not a soul would venture into the handsome suites on that floor. The rents were the same as those on the adjacent, and the offices were as pleasant and apparently as desirable.

Finally the thirteenth floor began to be regarded with some degree of mystery, even by the superintendent of the building and his staff. It was noticed that all who came to look at offices were delighted with them until they were on the thirteenth floor. Then they gracefully, though mysteriously, transferred their inspection to some other floor.

It was about a month ago when Mr. Read and the superintendent became convinced that superstitious aversion to the number 13 was the secret. Their building is one of the tallest on Manhattan Island and it was to be expected, perhaps, that those who had some lurking fear that accidents might come would not further tempt fate by installing themselves on the ticklish thirteenth floor. Especially did this seem an unnecessary proceeding when they could get offices of the exact counterpart on the floors directly above and beneath. So Mr. Read was finally driven to balance the superstitions of office renters against their cupidity and he found that a reduction of a third in the rents on that floor was about sufficient to counter-balance the "hoodoo" which the trick thirteen had fastened to the offices there. Several of them have already been taken and the superintendent now looks on the thirteenth floor as about equal in renting qualities with the rest of the great structure.

The Manhattan, the American Surety, the Havemeyer, the Syndicate and the Mutual Life Annex buildings are the other prominent office structures that have thirteenth floors. The Syndicate's and the Mutual Life's are their top and are not rented to the general run of professional men. The others have had the same dilemma as has confronted the American Tract. The Manhattan and the American Surety were rapidly filled, all save their thirteenth floors. They, too, are among the four or five tallest office buildings on the island running up past the twentieth story. Their suites are considered very desirable, and Mr. Pierson, the renting agent of the American Surety, as well as the Superintendent of the Manhattan was in the same quandary as well was Mr. Read for a short time. Then they began to see that they could not expect to rent the thirteenth floor offices until nearly all of the others were disposed of. They say that they had not had to reduce their rents on that floor, but neither have they filled all of their offices there yet. In the Manhattan building a large part of the thirteenth floor was finally taken by the Trinidad Asphalt Company. That was significant, too, for ex-Mayor Gilroy, who is a guiding spirit in the company, is a prominent member of the Thirteenth Club, which was formed to combat this very superstition. Of course he would not let the popular aversion to the thirteenth association interfere with his company, and he was glad, indeed, to get better offices by taking advantage of it than he might otherwise have secured at the same price. There are still several offices vacant on the American Surety's thirteenth floor. Those who are there took their quarters after the rest of the building had been so filled that they could not get similar offices on any of the other floors.

The Havemeyer has three or four vacant offices on its thirteenth floor which have never been filled. The rest of the building is so well occupied, however, that its agent does not think it worth while to reduce the rents in combating the thirteenth superstition. He puts the vacant rooms to good use.

The giant St. Paul Building at Broadway and Ann street, is already far above its thirteenth story. Its agents have already considered this thirteenth problem, for it is being forced to the front more prominently than one would imagine. They have not decided how they will get around it, but they think that part of the thirteenth floor may be used for the superintendent's office.

As if in recognition that they must either stop at the thirteenth story or skip it entirely if they want to make use of their entire structure, the other big office buildings that have been built within the past few years have adopted the former plan. The Postal, Home Life, Vanderbilt, Metropolitan, Union Trust, Mutual Reserve Fund and Downing buildings stop at the twelfth or thirteenth stories. The Times building uses its thirteenth story for its printers who are generally regarded as ironclad to all superstition. The World puts its reporters on its fatal floor, for reporters, too, are notoriously proof against such mental aberrations. It is said that all of the new skyscrapers will make some departure in their thirteenth floors as a sacrifice to this thirteenth superstition.

HOW TO TREAT YOUR BANKER.

If you wish to open an account with a bank provide yourself with a proper introduction. Well managed banks do not open accounts with strangers.

Do not draw a check unless you have the money in bank or in your possession to deposit. Don't test the courage or generosity of your bank by presenting or allowing to be presented, your check for a larger sum than your balance.

Do not draw a check and send it to a person out of the city expecting to make it good before it can possibly get back. Sometimes telegraphic advice is asked about such checks.

Do not exchange checks with anybody. This is soon discovered by your bank; it does your friend no good and discredits you.

Do not give your check to a friend with a condition that he is not to use it until a certain time. He is sure to betray you, for obvious reasons. Don't take an out-of-town check from a neighbor, pass it through your own bank without charges and give him your check for it. You are sure to get caught.

Do not give your check to a stranger. This is an open door to fraud, and if your bank loses through you it will not feel kindly toward you.

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FREE TRADE IS DEAD.

A curious fact in political history is the singular lack of interest, amounting almost to apathetic indifference, following the new tariff law of the twenty-fourth of last month. A few years back, and the enactment of such a measure would have evoked a storm of discussion, at the street corner and in the home, orally and journalistically, which would have comprehended every item of its complicated schedule. To-day, the public at large is, apparently, only aware of the existence of a new tariff statute with somewhat higher duties than those of its immediate predecessor. The majority of the newspapers themselves seem to share in this unconcern, and but too little is said editorially or otherwise upon this most important matter. "Dover Index."

What a confession! Our esteemed contemporary does not seem to be aware that the people of this United States voted last fall for a change in the tariff and it is not strange that its fulfillment does not excite them. Of course they are glad it came. They are rejoiced at the prospect of more prosperous days which will come with it; but they see no necessity for a "storm of discussion." People do not usually storm because of prosperity, because they are getting that for which they asked. The quoted statement from the "Index" is a confession of weakness in their position and we can tell them that free trade is dead.

The "Index" says the "grand object of the Wilson bill was free raw materials." What was President Cleveland's opinion of this bill and why did he not sign it? Every Democratic paper should give that information to its readers when comparing the Wilson-free-trade-hard-tariff with the McKinley-Dingley-prosperity tariff. The "Index" may not know though it should know that there are more protectionists in this country to-day than ever before. The south would be Republican to-day because its people favor protection but for the race question. Under such conditions, indeed, if the people were "storming" it would be remarkable, but that they are not indicates their satisfaction. It is the stirring of discontent that the "Index" seeks, as they fooled the people with during the Harrison campaign. But it won't do.

RECALL the Harrison-Cleveland campaign of 1892 and you will remember the use made by the Democrats of the "little tin dinner pail" and of the tax put upon the laboring man's dinner by the McKinley tariff. Not a Democratic organ but used it thereabout, not a public speaker but flourished the tin bucket in his speeches. It had its influence. We know of one man, a canner, who voted the Democratic ticket because of this argument. That and other false doctrines won the election, and there were

"Four years more of Grover," and four years, as they proved, of hard times and business depression. We are just getting out of them and there are none but recall their unpleasant features. But what of the sequel?

We do not know the facts but we venture the assertion that tin is as cheap to-day as before the McKinley bill when the tariff naturally raised the price. We believe an investigation will prove it to be cheaper, and besides American tinplate is being sold in foreign markets to-day. This is more forceful than columns of newspaper argument. A little over six years ago Ambassador Bayard and Senator Gray said from one of this State to the other that it could not be done. They insisted that no amount of protection would enable American manufacturers to successfully produce tin-plate, yet in that brief time we have practically supplied the markets of the United States and are now reaching out for those of the world. The "Every Evening" said the same. What has it to say now in defense of Messrs. Bayard and Gray, itself and the lesser lights who followed their lead? We can tell the people what it has to say—NOT A WORD.

There is one other thought: How can the progressive young men of to-day be Democrats because their fathers were? Take the history of parties and of this government and the Democratic party has been on the losing side, against the will of the people, in every important issue. Who says nay and where is the proof?

HIS WATERLOO.

Senator Wellington was beaten in the State Convention at Ocean City on Thursday, as he deserved to be. Bosses in politics are as necessary as are bosses on the farm and in the shop but they need to treat their subordinates with respect. But a few weeks since How Wellington showed his poor generalship on the floor of the Senate. He received not a vote from a senator in favor of his stand for "senatorial courtesy." It is said he has assumed to dictate in the State and early in his career he meets his Waterloo.

He lost on the organization, Dr. Tuck being elected temporary chairman by a vote of 61 to 56. The Mud-Tuck delegations were: Anne Arundel, Baltimore county, Charles, Caroline, Carroll, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Talbot and Washington.

The Wellington counties were Allegany, Calvert, Cecil, Garrett, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Worcester and Wicomico. By order of Senator Wellington the Baltimore City delegates favorable to himself had been placed on the roll but with these he was beaten, and with the Baltimore delegation against him the vote would be 75 to 42. The committee on credentials ordered new primaries in Baltimore and a new nomination election for mayor. This action should give the Republicans but one candidate for mayor and guarantee his election.

"REPUBLICAN GLASSES" IN THE STATE.

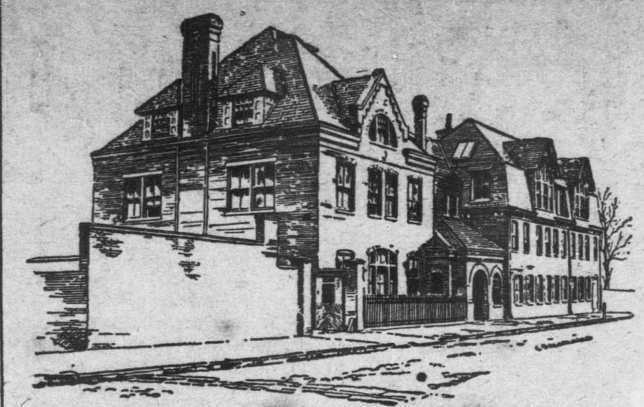
Republican Harmony, Obnoxious Poll Tax, and the Adams-Saulsbury Tax.

"The Republican State Committee on Wednesday last promptly agreed, without a dissenting voice, to provide for the appointment of a committee on conference to meet with a similar committee to be named by the Union Republican State Central Committee. The object of this action is the union of the two Republican factions in Delaware for the patriotic purpose of taking control of the affairs of this commonwealth, and giving it decent government. These State committees are on the right track. If their respective chairmen will select wise and conservative men, as they will no doubt, the conference must end in great good to the State. Any effort to secure factional advantage, or "to score points for our side," or to humiliate this man or that, will prove disastrous to the side that makes the attempt. Personal abuse, in public print at least, and the nefarious practice of confiding to Democratic editors what the sneak is afraid to have published in his own factional organs, must cease at once. The experience of the last ten months has brought wisdom to every man who is capable of rational consideration. No man who has shown by recent bitterness that he is incapable of learning wisdom by experience is fit to be one of the conferees. The Republican State Committee adopted a resolution drawn up in the proper spirit, and they also sent a proper letter to Chairman Allee, of the other committee, in reply to his communication of a month ago. There is some danger that the committee of conferees as proposed is too numerous, as it will altogether be composed of eighteen members; nine on a side. However, it is a matter of the gravest importance, and too many men cannot share its responsibility, provided they are wise and patriotic.

"The poll taxables of Wilmington are not rushing to the court house these days of McKinley prosperity. They are too busy earning wages while they try to pay the store and rent bills which they incurred during the four years of Cleveland tariff reform. They are using their money to pay back rent with, and also to improve their condition. Those who have been "boarding with relatives," or "living in two rooms," are renting houses again and paying the rent with their present earnings. Thus they are increasing their expenses and largely increasing the amount they are constantly and surely paying in taxes to the county and the city. The workingman who rents a house must pay enough in rent to cover the interest for the value of the house, as well as all the taxes levied upon the house. If he takes rooms in a house he must pay in the same proportion, both for interest money and for taxes. If he takes board in a house he is compelled again to keep up his end of interest money and taxes. This is as certain as fate or death. No man can live in a house and escape the payment of interest on capital and taxes to the commonwealth, unless he is "sponging" on some one. But in addition to this, the Democratic party of Delaware proposes to compel him to pay a poll tax, which is a tax on his head, his brains and on the skill of his hands. This tax is wrong in principle and long ago abandoned by every intelligent, reversed community. It has been retained in only five states, and therein solely for partisan reasons.

"In Delaware, by the (Constitutional Convention of last winter, thanks to the determined Republican minority, this relic of barbarism was separated from the franchise, but the Democrats of the Convention, bullied by their ignorant and dishonest politicians of Kent county, insisted upon holding on to the tax itself, in order that its collection might give jobs to party workers, to whom they proposed in a bill before the Legislature, to pay 20 per centum, or one-fifth of the poll tax. In the old days, when this tax was used to disfranchise men, these same Democratic bosses were glad enough not to get the tax. They used to run away from the men who came forward to offer the money. In more than one instance they had to be thrashed into taking it. In those days they said nothing about locking men up in jail, although the law then was the same as now. For twenty-five years their collectors evaded the poll tax payers and had no man locked up.

"Nor will they dare to lock up men to-day for neglecting to pay this tax. No man need be afraid of spending a night in New Castle jail for this offense. Let them try it. Let them arrest men at their peril. Let the Democratic collectors of Wilmington arrest a single poor man for this offense, and there will be more trouble in the so-called Democratic party than that mongrel collection has seen in all its days put together. The workingmen of Wilmington will stick together on this issue. For every Republican locked up with Sheriff Filan at New Castle, two Democrats will vote the Republican ticket next fall. They have a feeling already that Protection is right and tariff reform wrong for the workingman; they know that McKinley is a better president than Cleveland; they are beginning to see that sound money is better than free silver, and that the Republican party is the only safe-guard of sound money; they are convinced that the poll tax is false in principle and a hardship upon their class alone. Having these convictions in their minds already, it will be an easy matter for them to vote the Republican ticket, a ticket that will stand upon a platform denouncing the poll tax and pledging the party candidates to the General Assembly to pave the way to these conditions—and this is what the Republicans of Delaware will do next year—it will be a holiday job to sweep this city for the Republican ticket. The poll tax is doomed. None of us a count will be paid. It is wrong to



FRIENDS' SCHOOL, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE.

Choice of a School.—It is far more important for the welfare of the future man that he should find the right school than the right college. What can college or counting-room do with a lad whose preparatory opportunities have been abused? There is not a life in a hundred that can then begin anew to make up his losses and achieve success. SEND FOR FRIENDS' SCHOOL CATALOGUE, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE.

pay it. Men will refuse to pay it.

"Twelve years ago, through the death of a wealthy citizen of this county, many thousands of dollars were put out in this city upon the first mortgage judgment bonds at the rate of 5 per centum interest. This summer the last of the heirs came of age, and the estate must be closed up. All of the aforesaid bonds have been called in. The borrowers, with one accord, have been hunting this city high and low for money to replace the original loan at the original rate of interest. Up to this writing, while there is money in abundance, thousands of dollars in the hands of real estate agents and attorneys for just such a purpose, not a single loan has been secured at 5 per centum. Money has been offered, but in almost every case the lender asks 5 1/2 per centum. In one case 5 1/4 per centum was asked. The reason given for the increase is not that there is a better demand for money, but in every case the agents have frankly admitted that their principals cannot afford to lend at 5 per centum and pay the new tax too. This tax amounts to precisely \$2.25 per \$1,000 loaned, but in every case, except one, the lenders are insisting upon getting \$55 per \$1,000 in interest as against \$50 a year per \$1,000 twelve years ago; that is, the borrower is compelled to pay \$5 per \$1,000 a year more than he did previously in order that the State and county may be paid \$2.25 per thousand. These facts are respectfully submitted to the Hon. "Charley" Adams, of Adamsville, and for the same let all the borrowers in Delaware be truly thankful to the wise, if not omniscient, the Hon. John P. Saulsbury."

This is the season when every merchant and manufacturer, lawyer and doctor, tradesman and other fellow who does business in Delaware, is called upon to contribute the sum of fifty cents each of the otherwise handsome salaries of our Clerks of the Peace. This fee is collected along with a State license which if not paid within 90 days from the first of June another fifty cent fee is added for the benefit of the clerk and 25 per cent to the license for the benefit of the State. To-morrow or Monday is the last day of the 90 days from June 1st, according to whether June 1st is included or excluded. Application may be made to the several Justices of the Peace as well as the Clerks of the Peace for license. The former collect 25 cents for their trouble.

This information is given for the benefit of our readers. The same information is given the people of New Castle in a notice in two or three Democratic papers in Wilmington. In the other counties the officers of the law are not so exclusive, the notices appearing in all the papers. As a passing remark it may be observed that there is more liberality politically in the lower part of the State than in this county, more general recognition of rights of political opponents to read legal notices, &c, in their own papers. But it was not of all this we were thought to write when we began. It was of the necessity for the people who pay the taxes to look around in every legislative district for a candidate to the next General Assembly who will be independent of the politicians and who will either vote to repeal the law giving fees to State and county officers, or at least to turn those fees into the public treasury to lessen general taxation. Genuine reform should begin now and not cease until every special oppression in the shape of taxation is removed. It is not too soon for the people, not the politicians, to look around them for representative and independent men.

"If it is really true that Billy McKinley did individually discover the Klondike gold mine, and that it was only he who booted wheat to the dollar mark, then the Presidency isn't half good enough for him, and we ought to make him our patron saint and be done with it."—Dover Index.

This is the argument offered by the Democratic press against the results of the election last fall upon the business of the country, and it is their best argument—to try to belittle the President of the United States. But the people are coming more and more to realize the truth uttered by the great Lincoln that they cannot be fooled all the time.

The Southern Railway.
THE QUICKEST AND BEST ROUTE TO ALL POINTS IN THE SOUTH—If you are going to any point in the South, Southwest, Mexico or the Pacific Coast, be sure to call for a ticket via the Southern Railway. Double daily trains from Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, enable you to reach almost every place of importance South of the Potomac and East of the Mississippi rivers without change of cars, and if you are destined to points in the extreme West or Southwest, you will find the connections at Memphis or New Orleans close. Further information will be cheerfully furnished by Jno. M. Beall, District Passenger Agent, 328 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

What More Do You Ask.
On receipt of ten cents cash or in stamps a generous sample will be mailed of the most popular Catarrh and Hay Fever Cure (Ely's Cream Balm) sufficient to demonstrate its great merit. Full size 50c.

ELY BROTHERS,
65 Warren St., New York City.
Since 1861 I have been a great sufferer from catarrh. I tried Ely's Cream Balm and to all appearances am cured. Terrible headaches from which I had long suffered are gone.—W. J. Hitchcock, late Major U. S. Vol. and A. A. Gen., Buffalo, N. Y.

MY MARYLAND.

A fair under the auspices of the agricultural societies of Kent and Queen Anne's counties began at Tolchester Beach on Tuesday.

James Marion Wooters, who died near Cordova last Sunday is well known to many Delawareans. He was buried with Masonic honors Tuesday at Hillsboro. He was 52 years old. During President Cleveland's administration he was a special agent of the treasury department, and in 1882 and 1892 he represented Talbot county in the House of Delegates. His brother, Charles R. Wooters, is secretary of the Nickerson Fertilizer Company, of Easton Md.

The Republicans of Caroline county have nominated the following ticket: Senator, Robert W. Messick; House of Delegates, Charles H. Todd and W. W. Seaward; Clerk of the Court, Charles W. Hobbs; Register of Wills, Robert J. Jump, present incumbent; Sheriff, Robert C. Rice; Treasurer, Thomas R. Green; County Commissioner, Daniel J. Zacharias; Surveyor, Walter Noble.

WANAMAKER'S.

PHILADELPHIA, Monday, Aug. 23, 1897.

School Clothes for Boys.
QUEEREST of queer trade doings. School days are so near at hand that the restless youngster may be forgiven for fearing that the bell ringing now and the prices of woollens are upward bound. Naturally clothes will be higher, as conditions improve.

But in the face of all this one of the country's trio of best makers of boys' suits sells \$5 and \$6 ALL-WOOL SUITS TO SELL AT \$2.75 AND \$3.50. The suits are double breasted, of fine and slightly fabrics—and every seam is sewed with silk. With long foresight the makers furnish pieces for patching and some extra buttons. Any careful mother will appreciate these suits—if there is a boy of 6 to 16 to be toggled out for school.

But there is a decided limit to the offering—only five hundred and fifty suits went to bed last. Will you be one of the fortunate few to share the good fortune?

Men's Derby Hats.
FOR six seasons we have done the usual thing of selling men's newest shaped hats—the product of the world's two or three best makers—at less than regular prices before the season opened.

The new fall shapes were determined upon some weeks ago—Fashion always conjures ahead. But orders are always slow at first. To bridge over the lull, the makers take our order for as many hats as they need to make. This time we only get eight hundred. Of course, they will not let us use their name. The hats stand on their merit and our guarantee of their excellence. Perfect in fabric and trimming and finish. \$3 and \$3.50 hats—at \$1.75.

Judging by past selling of such lots these will be gone in short order. Every man who wears a Derby can be suited, as a full range of the fall shapes is included. Hats for everybody—who comes in time. Fall hats cheaper than we can sell them when fall comes.

Parlor Furniture.
THE August trade sale brings the opportunity of the year for parlor furnishing. You're not quite ready? Sorry, for prices will be higher after August lots are gone. We'll hold goods to your order for a reasonable time—because it's the store's policy to make its offerings of merchandise widely available. Parlor Suites, \$15 to \$230. And there's almost no end to the assortment of pretty and odd pieces besides the suites.

3-piece Parlor Suite, \$15—Mahogany finished frames, inlaid backs covered in silk tapestry.

3-piece Parlor Suite, \$18—Mahogany finished and inlaid frames, covered in satin damask and highly finished.

3-piece Parlor Suite, \$20—Mahogany finished frames, inlaid backs, covered in satin damask.

3-piece Parlor Suite, \$21—Frames in mahogany finish, inlaid backs; covered in satin damask.

3-piece Parlor Suite, \$27—Handsomely carved frames in mahogany finish, inlaid backs; silk damask covering.

5-piece Parlor Suite, \$29.50—Well made and finely finished frames, covered in fancy silk tapestry.

5-piece Parlor Suite, \$35—Mahogany finished frames, carved; covered in silk brocade of new design.

5-piece Parlor Suite, \$40—Mahogany finished carved frames, spring edge seats covered in Satin Damask.

5-piece Parlor Suite, \$45—Overstuffed frames covered in Silk Brocade, plush trimmings, fringed.

5-piece Parlor Suite, \$53—Mahogany finished frames covered in Silk embroidered Velour, shaped edge seats.

5-piece Parlor Suite, \$60—Overstuffed frames, covered in Silk Brocade, plush trimmings; spring-edge seats.

5-piece Parlor Suite, \$72—Overstuffed frames, Satin Damask covering in beautiful new designs; spring-edge seats.

5-piece Parlor Suite, \$79—Mahogany finished frames, highly finished; covered in silk-embroidered Velour in Dark Green.

3-piece Parlor Suite, \$80—Solid mahogany frames, inlaid in beautiful designs; green silk Velour covering, highly finished.

John Wanamaker

Wilmington

Conference Academy,

DOVER, DEL.

The Wilmington Conference Academy calls the attention to its facilities for preparing students for college, business and the professions. Alumni of the Academy were studying last year at Dickinson, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Wesleyan, University of Pennsylvania, Peabody Institute, Baltimore; The Metropolitan School of Music, New York; Drew Theological Seminary, and the Law School of the University of Maryland. For catalogue apply to

W. L. Gooding,

Principal, Dover, Del.

Better Goods

For the Same Money,
... or ...
The Same Goods for
Less Money

are the very foundations of this business.

Its principle which has governed every transaction of the past and it will remain the keynote of all our doings in the future. You can find it ever present in all departments. Every price proclaims in silent eloquence "Money saved by trading here."

SHOES AND OXFORD TIES TUMBLE.

Ladies Finest Nut Brown Glace Kid Skin Shoes, welted and turned soles, slender toes, button and lace, cloth top, usually sold for \$3.00 to \$4.00, to close we now make the price \$2.00.

Ladies Fine Nut Brown Glace Kid Skin Lace and Button Shoes, turned soles, slender toes, usually sold at \$2.50 to \$3.00, we have now reduced the price to \$1.50.

Ladies Nut Brown Oxford Ties, every pair warranted. We now make the price 80 cents.

Ladies Nut Brown Oxford Ties, turned soles, slender toes, fine white kid lined, a most beautiful shoe. We now make the price to close at \$1.00 the pair.

Children's Button and Lace Nut Brown Shoes, all reduced to 79 cents, from \$1.25.

HOUSEHOLD SUNDRIES.

Nickle Alarm Clocks, 85c; Brooms, 10c; Shoe Brushes, 8c; Mrs. Potts' Sad Iron Handles, 10c; Glass Lemon Squeezers, 5c; Plain and Fancy Tumblers, 25c doz; Wash Boards, zinc, 10c; Large Vegetable Graters, 4c; Clothes Pins, 1c doz; Dish Mops, 5c; Chain Pot Cleaners, 5c; Can Openers, 3c; Egg Whippers, 2c; Dust Brushes, large, 20c; Large Dust Pans, 8c; Crumb Tray and Brush, 15c; Covered Dinner Buckets, 2 qts, 5c; 3 qts, 8c; 4 qts, 12c; Coffee Pots—1 qt, 7c; 2 qts, 8c; 3 qts, 10c; 4 qts, 12c; Pint Cups, 2c; Toilet Paper, 5c package; Butter Milk Soap, 3 cakes for 9c; Rolling Pins, 5c; half-gallon Cups, 5 cents.

Window Shades, Felt, 10 cents, Window Shades, Oil Cloth, 25 cents, COMPLETE WITH SPRING ROLLERS.

Stove Lifters, 2c; Vegetable Dippers, 5c; Large Spoons, 8c; Tea Spoons, six spoons for 4c; Table Spoons, six spoons for 10c; Iron Handle Knives and Forks, 39c doz; Muffin Pans, 12 on sheet, 18c; Lantern Globes, 5c; Tubular Lanterns, 40c; Best Made Side Lift Zinc Wash Boilers, 38c; Window Glass, 8x10, 35c doz; Lamp Burners, No. 0, 5c; No. 1, 5c; No. 2, 7c each.

J. B. Messick,

MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE.

Business Women

may increase
their income
by addressing:

THE MUTUAL LIFE

INSURANCE COMPANY

OF NEW YORK.

TO CLOSE OUT OUR FEW REMAINING

* Straw Hats and *

Russet Shoes

ALL WILL BE SOLD AT
..half price..

Come early as there are very few of them.

JOS. C. JOLLS,

MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE.

The Transcript \$1.00 per year.

Wm. B. Sharp & Co.

FOURTH and MARKET STS.
Wilmington, Del.

Our Fall Dress Goods are arriving daily and very handsome effects for early buyers will be shown.

There's a beautiful line of mixed Novelties in good quality dress stuffs now on our counters for sale at 25c per yard.

A fine line of new shades in All-Wool Serges are just opened—45 inches wide at 50c per yard.

Mixed Novelties in fine All Wool Dress Stuff in handsome combinations of blue, brown, red, green and navy are going to be very desirable—75c per yard.

Muslins for Saturday:

Yard wide fine unbleached, 6c. Yard wide heavy unbleached, 6c. 48 inches wide heavy Sheeting, 7c. 2 1/2-yard wide bleached Sheeting, 15c.

Blankets for Saturday—

White, tan or gray, full size, 55c. each. White or lawn, large size, \$1.25 grade for \$1.25 per pair.

A few dress Gingham, a few Linen Tissues and a few fine double fold Cheviots are all that remain of Summer effects in this store. These will be blue penciled as follows.

Linen Tissues, 6c from 15c. Fine Cheviots, 5c from 12 1/2c. Scotch Gingham, 12 1/2c from 55c.

Fifty White Bed Spreads, full size, Marcellais patterns, \$1 quality for 75c.

Last Wednesday's sale of Table Linens left us with a lot of remnants. They are sorted up into 1 1/2 to 3 yard lengths and sold at half price.

Talcum powder for Saturday, 11c per box.

Colgate's Antiseptic Tooth Powder, 17c.

Collingwood Cologne, in big bottles, 33c.

WM. B. SHARP & CO.

H. L. EVANS & CO.,

BANKERS,

Stock, Bond and Grain Brokers, MARKET & EIGHTH STREETS, WILMINGTON, DEL.

Orders for the purchase and sale of wheat, corn, provisions, etc., executed on Chicago and New York Exchanges and carried on favorable terms. Orders for stocks and bonds executed on all the leading exchanges. Private telegraph wires and long-distance telephones in our office. Write for quotation sheets. Mailed free daily upon application.

Correspondence Solicited.

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FREE OF ALL COST
a liberal trial quantity of
ELECTRO-SILICON

The famous Silver Polish. It's unlike others and will surprise you simply send your address on a postal to SILICON, 30 CHURCH ST., NEW YORK, N. Y. We make special offers to housekeepers.

The Suits Ruined

you may think, but if you send it to us we'll clean it in a way that will surprise and delight you.

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Established 1870.

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Private and class lessons in all branches of Music.
Send for illustrated catalogue giving full information. 1,384 pupils in attendance last season.

KLONDIKE GOLD.

"The Greatest Gold District on Earth." Shares \$1.00. Agents Wanted. We are now in the millions of shares taken out of Alaska? We offer a golden opportunity. We shall send an expedition with a large stock of merchandise and fully equipped with mining appliances. This merchandise will return a handsome profit in addition to the enormous sum to be made from economic mining. We confidently expect to return \$100 FOR EVERY \$1 IN INVESTED.

Holders of \$50 shares entitled to accompany expedition with all expenses paid. Prospects free.

A limited number of shares now on sale, \$1.00. A LAXA GOLD MINING, TRADING & TRANSPORTATION CO., No. 120 Broadway, New York City.

G. W. INGRAM, H. M. ENOS, Middletown, Odesa.

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Are prepared to call sales of Real Estate Personal Property, etc., and guarantee to give satisfaction. Call on or address, for terms, etc., either All business will receive prompt attention.

